

REMARKS

Applicants' Invention

Applicants' invention relates to the establishment of a directory of wireless contact information in real time. As set forth in Applicants' claims, as amended, the system which enables the establishment of this database comprises: 1) a central network station adapted to carry out software-based instruction in the generation of a database system of contact information; and 2) a contact information gathering system coupled to the central network station and to a network of one or more telecommunications service providers, the contact information gathering system adapted to gather contact information from the network of one or more telecommunications service providers.

In use, the contact information gathering system may embody a router switch station (40) that interfaces with the network of one or more telecommunications service providers (100, 101...N) to retrieve contact information related to wireless communications devices. The router switch station (40) then transmits the contact information to the central network (20), where it is aggregated into a database of wireless contact information. This database of wireless contact information may be provided to directory service providers (50) or, alternatively, may be accessible directly by a user (70) seeking specific wireless contact information.

The claims have been amended to more particularly define Applicants' invention relative to art cited in counterpart foreign applications. The art referred to was cited in a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed with the US Patent Office on March 4, 2005. The claims as amended specifically reflect amendments filed in the European counterpart application in response to the prior art referred to in the preceding sentences of this paragraph. The European counterpart has been determined to satisfy requirements for patentability and a communication under Rule 51(4) (the EPO equivalent to a US Notice of Allowance) issued on November 18, 2004.

For purposes of clarity, Applicants have included as Exhibit A, a copy of the approval of text as submitted on March 22, 2005 in the European counterpart application. It should be noted that the approval of the text was conditional upon the acceptance by the Examiner of the amended claims attached to that paper. Applicant notes that it is the amended European claim set attached to the conditional approval of text which is substantially identical in scope to the newly submitted claims in the subject patent application.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

The Patent Office rejected claims 26, 26, 29 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by LaPorta et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,794,300, "LaPorta"). The Patent Office has asserted in particular that the caller telephone (22) and the cellular network (24) anticipate the network of one or more telecommunications service providers as recited in the amended claims. The Applicants respectfully submit that this is not the case.

As noted in the specification of the present invention, "[i]t is a matter of legislative obligation that such wireless service providers provide to any other telecommunications service provider the contact information of its subscribers." Page 5, lines 14-16. This mandated sharing results in a networking arrangement between telecommunications service providers wherein they share the respective contact information of their respective subscribers.

As recited in independent claims 36 and 41, the system and method of the present invention interfaces with the one or more wireless communications service provider stations (100, 101...N) in order to access and assemble the directory of wireless contact information. The Applicants submit that this arrangement, which arises from the legal obligations of the wireless device service providers, is clearly quite distinct from the arrangement between the caller telephone (22) and cellular network (24) disclosed in Figure 1 of LaPorta. That is to say, neither a caller telephone (22) nor a cellular network (24) is a telecommunications service provider.

Both claims 36 and 41 specifically recite the existence the one or more wireless communications service provider stations that interact with the contact information gathering system. These features are not presented in the LaPorta reference, and so it follows that LaPorta does not disclose or teach each and every limitation claimed in the amended claims. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that previous rejection of claims 25 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is withdrawn and that the newly presented claims proceed to allowance.

The remaining dependent claims also depend from one of claim 36 or 41, and their allowance is also respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103

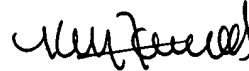
The Applicants submit that the rejections stated under 35 U.S.C. 103 have been rendered moot by the fact that LaPorta does not disclose the essential features of the present invention as claimed herein, i.e. the interaction between the contact information gathering system and the one or more wireless communications service provider stations. As such, the

Applicants respectfully request that the Patent Office withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103 with regards to the newly presented claims.

Summary

In light of the above amendment, consideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin M. Farrell
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No.
(603) 433-6300

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